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Varsity Special

VARSITY CHAMPIONS 2023



FINAL RESULTS

CARDIFF	39	9	SWANSEA
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Wed 19th April

Equestrian	Cardiff
Sailing	Cardiff

Fri 21st April

Athletics	Cardiff
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Sat 22st April

Rowing	Draw
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Cardiff
Karate	Cardiff

Tue 25st April

Ladies Cycling	Cardiff
Men's Cycling	Cardiff
Ladies Canoe Polo	Swansea
Men's Canoe Polo	Swansea

Wed 26st April

Golf	Swansea
Ladies Triathlon	Cardiff
Men's Triathlon	Cardiff
Swimming (Short course)	Swansea
Rifle	Cardiff
Ariel Fitness	Cardiff
Archery	Swansea
Men's Badminton	Cardiff

Men's Squash	Swansea
Netball	Cardiff
Tae Kwon Do	Cardiff
American Football	Cardiff
Ladies Hockey	Swansea
Ladies Lacrosse	Cardiff
Ladies Tennis	Cardiff
Ladies Volleyball	Cardiff
Men's Football	Cardiff
Men's Tennis	Cardiff
Men's Ultimate Frisbee	Cardiff
Mixed Fencing	Cardiff
Freshers Rugby	Swansea
Ladies Basketball	Cardiff
Ladies Squash	Cardiff
Ladies Water Polo	Cardiff
Ladies Ultimate Frisbee	Cardiff
Men's Lacrosse	Cardiff
Men's Hockey	Cardiff
Kickboxing	Cardiff
Ladies Badminton	Cardiff
Ladies Cricket T20	Cardiff
Ladies Football	Cardiff
Men's Volleyball	Cardiff
Men's Water polo	Cardiff
Men's Basketball	Cardiff
Ladies Rugby	Cardiff
Men's Cricket T20	Cardiff
Men's Rugby	Cardiff

Varsity 2023: The day in pictures

Take a look at our Varsity gallery for highlights of the day.



Prior to Wednesday, Cardiff's Athletic Union won on Friday 21st April. Credit: Cardiff Athletic Union (via Instagram)



Archery getting underway at the Sports Wales Hall. Credit: Ashley Crowden



Crowds cheered on the squash players. Credit: Ashley Crowden



Cardiff kickboxing secured yet another win for the university. Credit: Ashley Crowden



The womens basketball team stormed to victory on Wednesday afternoon. Credit: Ashley Crowden



The Ladies hockey team cheer on their teammate during penalties. Credit: Ashley Crowden



The Ladies Football Team after their victory in a penalty shoot-out. Credit: Cardiff University Ladies Football (via Instagram)



Olivia Evans, Cardiff's VP Sports and AU President, is presented with the Varsity Shield. Credit: Cardiff University Sport (via Instagram)

A win for Cardiff FC

Aditi Kallanagoudar Girish
Varsity Editor

In a thrilling match during the Welsh Varsity, Cardiff University Football Club emerged victorious against Swansea with a 2-1 win. The match was held at Cardiff's Llanrumney grounds and was a highly anticipated event, with the stands brimming with supporters from both sides.

From the start, Cardiff dominated possession, with Luke Firkin and Tiago Soares posing a constant threat to Swansea's defence. However, Swansea woke up 20 minutes into the game and began to threaten with shots from Charlie Lewis and George Selick, forcing Cardiff's goalkeeper Dan Keane to make some impressive saves. Swansea's pressure eventually paid off with an unflinching goal from Harry Huddart, which was celebrated with great fervor by their supporters with chants and green flares filling the stands.

As the game progressed, it turned physical with both teams playing aggressively. These frustrations resulted in a nasty foul on Cardiff's captain Dan Roche by Swansea's Aaron Rees, resulting in an instant red card for the Swansea forward. Despite being down to 10 men, Swansea continued to fight and defend their lead, while Cardiff's offense was desperate to equalize before halftime. Eventually, Toby Link-Jones, deep inside the Swansea box, calmly slot the ball past the goalkeeper to send the reds in the stands into a stomping uproar.

“The game was unbelievable, the team was unbelievable”

With levelled scores, the second half of the match started off quiet with both teams playing relatively safely. Cardiff's offence was lively with players making a flurry of crosses from corners and open play but narrowly failing to connect any. The intense play finally took a toll on Cardiff with both their previous goalscorer, Toby Link-Jones and their Captain Dan Roche coming off within 10 minutes of each other. With fresh legs on the field, Cardiff, refusing to give in to panic, pressed down harder on their opponents.

With the game hanging in the balance and the crowd brimming with anticipation, one of Cardiff's substitutes, a fresher named Giles Basson came to the rescue with a charming chip in, securing the victory for the team with not a lot of time to spare. In a quick interview, Dan Roche told us “The game was unbelievable, the team was unbelievable. Swansea were a good side but I knew our team would break through sooner or later.”

The Cardiff Captain, tired but grinning with victory, also expressed how proud he was of his teammates and how thankful he was to all the fans present.

Cardiff take back the Varsity Cup!

Cardiff XV

T. Bevacqua
B. Chapman
A. Williams
E. Phillips
B. Roberts
G. Ramage
G. Evans
G. Shaw
D. Jones
C. Scott
J. Hoyes
L. Pollock (C)
R. Williams
L. Bray
F. Gilbert



Jasmine Jones
Head of Sport

FINAL SCORE CARDIFF 19-15 SWANSEA

Source: Cardiff Students Union (via Twitter)

Cardiff fought hard to claim back the coveted Varsity Cup, after narrowly losing out in 2022. Pressure was mounting for the Men's First XV Team, with the ladies winning their match beforehand and Team Cardiff already securing the Varsity shield earlier in the day. Prior to kick-off, there was much speculation surrounding the choice of venue, with previous Varsity Cup ties taking place inside the arms park's neighbour; the principality stadium. Whilst many thought this was a downgrade, there is no denying the electric atmosphere radiating from the 10,000 strong fans descending on the city.

“ Cardiff's first chance came in the 8th minute after a successful lineout from Ben Chapman

Swansea started the game strong, with many successful lineouts and runs in the first 5 minutes, unnerving Cardiff's

defence.

Cardiff's first chance came in the 8th minute after a successful lineout from Ben Chapman. It was scrappy in the 22 as Cardiff used their weight to push forward, with Luke Pollock taking on the ball. He seemed to be in for the try but nicked the ball on just before he could ground it - the nerves of the occasion getting to him on his final appearance in the red jersey.

Both teams were getting frustrated as neither could break the deadlock, with mistakes coming thick and fast at the 20 minute mark as both tried to get behind the defence. Ben Chapman came close here as well making it within 10m of touch before being pushed out field.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 28th minute after a penalty win. Choosing to kick to touch, the pressure of the ruck proved too much for Swansea who couldn't defend when Greg Ramage ran to ground the ball. Scott then converted to make it 7-0 to Cardiff.

Williams' high kick chase al-

most ended the half with another try for Cardiff but he was tackled by the last defender in the 22 right on the half-time whistle.

Less than a minute into the second half Cardiff doubled their lead with a sensational try from captain Luke Pollock. A great run and change of pace from Gwilym Evans set up Pollock's run to perfection and the pass was made to make it 12-0.

Swansea's first chance of the 2nd half came at the 52nd minute mark with a scrum won within 5m. The ball switched from one side to the other and seemingly crossed the line only for the referee to call it held up. Many felt that Cardiff got lucky there.

2 minutes later Swansea made their breakthrough after a great spell of possession. Cai Davies picked the ball up from the scrum and pushed it all the way over the line despite a strong defensive effort from Cardiff. The try was converted to make it 12-7.

More troubles for Cardiff as

moments later Swansea leveled the score with a well-worked team try from a line-out. Harri Williams missed the conversion to keep the scores level with 20 minutes to play.

The atmosphere was tense on and off the pitch as both teams

“ Less than a minute into the second half Cardiff doubled their lead with a sensational try from captain Luke Pollock.

pushed for another try, with Swansea looking the stronger team out of the two. A penalty for Swansea in the 65th minute secured them another 3 points when Harri Williams successfully kicked through the posts, giving Swansea the lead for the first time.

Shortly after though Cardiff won themselves a penalty, and instead of taking the points to level the score they decided to kick to touch. A risky decision but one that had to be taken in order to win the game. A good

line out and drive toward the line resulted in Luke Pollock again coming out with the ball and storming between the posts to score his second of the night.

With 5 minutes to play, the crowd was tense. A yellow card for Swansea's Cai Davies in the final moments was a huge blow to the side desperate to retain their title from last year. Cardiff however were still pushing for one final try - desperate to finish on a high.

A Swansea lineout penalised for not being thrown straight sealed the deal for Cardiff as Swansea's last hope of an attack was squashed. The final whistle blew and the crowd erupted in cheers knowing their team had secured not only the cup but also the shield with the biggest ever winning margin.

Both teams put up a fight and provided great entertainment on a memorable night. Ultimately though it was Cardiff who fought hard to wrestle back the trophy, with the final score in the Cardiff Arms Park Cardiff 19-15 Swansea.



Cardiff Storm to Victory in Ladies Rugby Thriller



Jasmine Jones
Head of Sport

FINAL SCORE CARDIFF 46-12 SWANSEA

Source: Cardiff Students Union (via Twitter)

At the home of Welsh women's rugby, Cardiff Arms Park, Cardiff University's Ladies rugby team met their Swansea counterparts in a game full of anticipation and rivalry. With crowds starting to pour into the park, it was riling up to be a great sporting occasion.

Swansea came into the fixture after a strong season in the league, but despite this, they were seen as the underdogs in comparison to the strength of team Cardiff.

It was a nervous start from Swansea, who haven't had much luck in this fixture in recent years, conceding a scrum within the first minute after a knock-on by their defensive line.

“With crowds starting to pour into the park, it was riling up to be a great sporting occasion.”

Shortly after, Cardiff's Karolina Thomas offloaded the ball to Zoe Dare who stormed into the twenty-two. The Swansea defence were left helpless and they conceded yet another penalty. Cardiff were out to win and get points on the board early.

Despite a large number of

errors from both sides in the opening moments, Cardiff were looking more and more dangerous. The deadlock was broken in the 8th minute by Cadi Roberts, scoring a sensational try after throwing the line out, running around the side of the ruck to break away and score.

“The deadlock was broken in the 8th minute by Cadi Roberts, scoring a sensational try”

Shortly after, Cardiff scored their second try of the day to double their lead. A dummy from Eleanor Hing was then offloaded to Ffion Revill who ran straight through the defence within 5 metres of touch. A well-timed pass and switch of play to Marged Williams and the try was scored.

At the 20 minute mark came Swansea's first dangerous attack, with a great run that was held up on the line. By far the best period of play for the visitors.

That passage of play was short-lived though as moments later flyer Niamh Roberts scored an extraordinary try, running from inside her own half and cutting inside 3 players to score right under the sticks.

Karolina Thomas also got in on the action, proving that Cardiff were too strong and too quick for this Swansea side. Leaving players in the dust, she ran through the defence to make it 26-0.

Relief for Swansea though in the 28th minute, securing their first try of the match via Tirion Thomas giving the travelling fans something to celebrate. A moment lacking concentration for Cardiff.

Cardiff hit straight back though, with great team play and ball movement allowing Eleanor Hing to add herself to the scoresheet. Karolina Thomas then made it 6 tries in the first half for Cardiff, getting her second of the game.

Swansea hit back right on the halftime whistle with a well-worked try scored by Amy Cule and the teams went into the break 36-12.

“Relief for Swansea though in the 28th minute, securing their first try of the match via Tirion Thomas”

In a tale of two halves, Swansea started the second half with a renewed sense of urgency and posed a lot of problems to the Cardiff defence. For the first

“In the final passage of play Eleanor Hing once again came out victorious as she found her way over the line.”

time in the game, Cardiff struggled to get their hands on the ball.

The first chance of the second half though came once again from a red shirt, with Eleanor Hing giving a tremendous run and coming back inside only to be held up on the line.

The first try of the half shortly followed, provided by Zoe Dare. She had been instrumental in the previous tries so deserved to be on the scoresheet herself, bringing the score to 41-12.

The second half continued to be stop-start however, with multiple injury troubles for Swansea and a sin bin stint for Cardiff's Izzy van der Sande.

In the final passage of play, Marged Williams drove the ball forward and Eleanor Hing once again came out victorious as she found her way over the line. Her incredible performance won her the 'Woman of the Match' title, well deserved for her supportive play and attacking threats against Swansea.

The match finished Cardiff 46-12 Swansea and capped off

an incredible season for Cardiff University's Ladies rugby club. What a year 2023 has been, league champions, cup champions, a promotion, and now secured the win over their greatest rivals in Welsh Varsity 2023.

Cardiff XV I. Van der Sande

C. Roberts

C. Harrison

C. Jones

Z. Dare

C. Lawrence (C)

F. Revill

L. Jones

C. Williams

F. Hewlett

N. Roberts

E. Hing

P. Softley

M. Williams

K. Thomas

American Football Success

Rohan Kakhar
Sport Editor

The Cardiff Cobras triumphed over Swansea University in a thrilling Welsh Varsity match. The match began with Swansea taking a 9-0 lead by the end of the first half, thanks to their strong defense and solid running game. Cardiff's offense was struggling to make any headway, as they were plagued by poor catching and a lack of cohesion.

“Despite Swansea's best efforts to mount a comeback of their own, they were unable to overcome Cardiff's renewed offensive prowess.”

However, things changed in the second half when Cardiff made a bold decision to switch their quarterback to Victor Wendling. This proved to be a game-changer as Wendling's strong arm and accurate passing helped Cardiff to mount a comeback. Cardiff's offense finally started to click as they scored two touchdowns, taking the lead for the first time in the match.

Despite Swansea's best efforts to mount a comeback of their own, they were unable to overcome Cardiff's renewed offensive prowess. The final score was 18-12 in favor of Cardiff, who celebrated their hard-fought victory in front of a jubilant home crowd.

“Cardiff's offense was struggling to make any headway”

This match was a great showcase of the talent and passion that exists in Welsh university sports. The Welsh Varsity match is a highly anticipated event every year, and this match was no exception. The players gave it their all, and the fans were treated to a thrilling display of American football.

For Cardiff, this victory will be one to remember for a long time to come. They showed great resilience in overcoming a deficit to win the match, and their fans will be looking forward to the next Welsh Varsity match with great anticipation.

“The final score was 18-12 in favor of Cardiff”

Cardiff Ladies seeks redemption in a seven-wicket win

“I am so proud of the girls today, it was a real team performance” - Hannah Bates

Eloise Martin
Sport Editor

On Varsity Day, a crowd of 3,000 witnessed the women's cricket team take the stage at Sophia Gardens. The stands were packed with red and green supporters soaking up the rays. Cardiff were eager to make amends after falling short last year at the home of Welsh cricket.

The crowd cheered and whooped for black and red as they took to the pitch. After the toss, Swansea were up to bat first. It didn't take long for Cardiff to hit the ground running with a runout first ball before Izzy Martin-Curtoud picked up a wicket on the very next ball from a catch by Hannah Bates to see two batsmen dismissed immediately. Swansea struggled to gain momentum as Cardiff took seven wickets and Swansea finished their innings

“It was captain Hannah Bates who hit the last shot”

with 77 runs.

After a quick break, it was Cardiff's turn to bat and it was Captain Hannah Bates and Sian Pyne opening. With seven wickets to hand, Cardiff looked confident and the runs climbed up steadily. After a steady start, two wickets fell in quick succession to Swansea meaning it was young star Isla Thomson who joined Hannah Bates, who was still standing strong. Thomson scored multiple boundaries to see the runs totaling up fast. Near the end, Martha Cole stood up to bat next, and with a few overs left, Cardiff required just two more runs. It was captain Hannah Bates who hit the last shot near the boundary to secure the final two runs and the well-deserved victory!

Catching up with the Captain after the win she said:

“I am so proud of the girls today, it was a real team performance. We channelled our disappointment from missing out last year and the crowd were amazing too, they definitely spurred us on to get the win”.



Cardiff Ladies Cricket Team celebrate their well-deserved win. Credit: Cardiff Uni Ladies Cricket (via Instagram)



Cardiff's men triumph in late comeback

Rohan Kakar reports on the closely-played game



While Cardiff's men won 3-0 against their rivals, the women's team lost a closely played match during penalties. Credit: Ashley Crowden



Rohan Kakar
Sport Editor

The Welsh Varsity T20 is one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures in the university sporting calendar, and this year's match did not disappoint.

Swansea won the toss and decided to bat first, hoping to set a challenging total for their opponents. However, it wasn't a smooth start for Swansea as they lost two early wickets in the first two overs. Despite a brief partnership between the middle-order batsmen, they struggled to find momentum and were kept in check by some tight bowling from Cardiff. The innings limped to a total of 127-8 after 20 overs, which seemed a below-par score on a good batting track.

In response, Cardiff got off to a flying start with their openers, putting on a quickfire 30 runs in just 3 overs. Swansea did manage to take a few wickets to slow down the scoring rate, but Cardiff's middle-order batsmen held their nerve and kept the scoreboard ticking. With 8 runs needed off the last over, Cardiff's

“Cardiff got off to a flying start with their openers”

lower-order batsmen managed to hit a boundary off the final ball to seal a thrilling victory with just one ball to spare.

It was a disappointing result for Swansea, who had set a decent total but failed to defend it. On the other hand, Cardiff would have been pleased with their performance, particularly the way they chased down the target with some excellent batting under pressure.

Overall, it was an exciting and closely contested match that showcased some excellent cricket from both sides. The Welsh Varsity T20 is not just a cricket match, but also a celebration of Welsh culture and education. This match, like many before it, was watched by thousands of spectators both on and off-campus, and it was a testament to the strength of the university sporting community in Wales.

“An exciting and closely contested match that showcased some excellent cricket from both sides.”

Varsity Hockey: 3-0 win for Cardiff's men

It was a varied outcome for Cardiff hockey's men and ladies team, as Beth Williams reports.



While Cardiff's men won 3-0 against their rivals, the women's team lost a closely played match during penalties. Credit: Ashley Crowden



Beth Alaw Williams
 Editor-in-chief

Cardiff University's men's hockey team celebrated a 3-0 victory over their Swansea rivals at Sport Wales' hockey Astroturf. With one of Cardiff university's hockey teams winning four out of their last five games, the odds looked to be in the men's favour. However, Swansea would start the game off strong, making plenty of advances and aims towards the goal. Unfortunately for Swansea, the balls that did find their way into the net were invalid, leaving them goalless.

Tensions ran high towards the end of the game, as a scuffle broke out between a Cardiff and Swansea player. After intervention from the referees and security, a Swansea player was given a yellow card before the game continued.

Cardiff was awarded a penalty in the fourth quarter, resulting in a final score of 3-0 to the home team. Commenting on their victory, Cardiff player George Hardy said: "Bit of a punch up and the end but think we deserved the win. Highlight would be somebody taking a pea flick off me – pretty standard from this team."

“Tensions ran high towards the end of the game, as a scuffle broke out”

“Cardiff women's hockey team suffered a defeat to Swansea”

Nice to be out on a good pitch, not at Taly, with a good bunch of boys”.

Despite winning both Swansea teams in their 2022/23 league games and a win at Varsity 2022, Cardiff women's hockey team suffered a defeat an hour earlier. Following a closely played game which ended in a 1-1 tie, the outcome of the match would come down to penalties. Swansea took victory after a close result of 5-4, with the away fans erupting into cheers.

CULHC is one of the biggest societies at Cardiff University, with a whopping seven teams. Both sets of fans approached the game with optimism as Cardiff and Swansea teams have been fierce, yet close rivals throughout the 2022/23 season. Recently, Cardiff 1s have been promoted to the West Women's Premier League after winning the South Wales Women's Hockey League, just two points above Swansea 2s.

Discussing the penalties, the commentator said that both goalkeepers did “a very good job because there is nothing harder as a goalkeeper than trying to save those goals from going in, I mean, it's really difficult.”

Cardiff dominates Water polo

Edward Sutton
 Varsity Editor

Wednesday saw some incredible results for the Swimming and Water polo club. Cardiff celebrated a double victory in water polo at the Welsh Varsity tournament against Swansea University. The men's and women's teams both dominated their matches at the Cardiff International Pool, showing their skills and stamina in the sport. The men's team won 30-0, with the women's team also steaming ahead with a 22-8 win over Swansea.

The Cardiff Water polo teams have proven once again that they are the best in Wales and among the best in the UK. Both teams kept the pressure on Swansea throughout the matches, with the ball barely going to the Cardiff end. The Cardiff teams had been training hard for this day, and their efforts paid off. They played with confidence, speed, and precision, outsmarting, and outplaying their opponents in every aspect. The Swansea teams had no answer to Cardiff's relentless attacks and solid defence. I'm sure this varsity will go down in history as one (if not the best) result for the Water polo Club.

The water polo players were not the only ones who made a splash at the Varsity. The swimming teams also performed well, despite losing overall to Swansea. The short-course swimming event took place at the same venue, with Cardiff and Swansea swimmers competing in various races and relays. Swansea had some strong swimmers who gave us a tough challenge. However, we still had some really impressive individual and relay performances. The Women's 200m Freestyle and Butterfly were some great wins for Cardiff to name a few. The medley relays were incredibly close for both the men's and women's teams, but Swansea just piped us to the post in those events.

There was an incredible atmosphere at the International Pool with loads of Cardiff students coming down to support the teams. Even in the humidity, the energy of the crowd didn't wane. The vuvuzela in the crown helped keep the chants coming in for Team Cardiff whilst the goals were being racked up by both water polo teams. The Cardiff University Swimming and Water Polo athletes should be very proud of their achievements at Varsity and the club is looking forward to building on its successes at Varsity for next year and beyond. Da iawn to everyone who competed!

“The Cardiff Water polo teams have proven once again that they are the best in Wales”

Cardiff netball victorious yet again at Welsh Varsity

Eloise Martin reports on the Dragons' mammoth win

Eloise Martin
 Sport Editor

Cardiff retained their victory in Varsity netball with a 61-30 win over Swansea. The stands were a sea of red as students turned up in numbers to support the team, filling both the home and away stands. Despite Swansea taking the first centre it was Cardiff's Nancy Kuti who netted the first goal in under thirty seconds. The game was fast-paced and by the end of the first quarter Cardiff were leading 17-9.

Cardiff's defence were solid and they were able to bag multiple goals by turning over the play. Just five minutes into the second quarter and Cardiff had already doubled their lead with thirty goals.

bled their lead with thirty goals.

Swansea did well to fight on and netted a fair few goals themselves but the differences between the sides were evident. Cardiff maintained their lead well with the score being 47-25 at the end of the third quarter. They did well to nullify Swansea who went on to score only five more goals in the last quarter with Cardiff taking their total to 61.

An excellent, threatening performance saw Cardiff win by 61 to 30 retaining the trophy for yet another year.

I caught up with player Ellie Jupp after the game and this is what she had to say:

“I am really proud of the girls and how they responded to the intense atmosphere, the crowd were so amazing I couldn't even hear the girls on the pitch! Overall it was a great team performance and we are buzzing to win the trophy

“The game was fast-paced and by the end of the first quarter Cardiff were leading 17-9.”



Cardiff celebrated a 61-30 win against Swansea. Credit: Ashley Crowden



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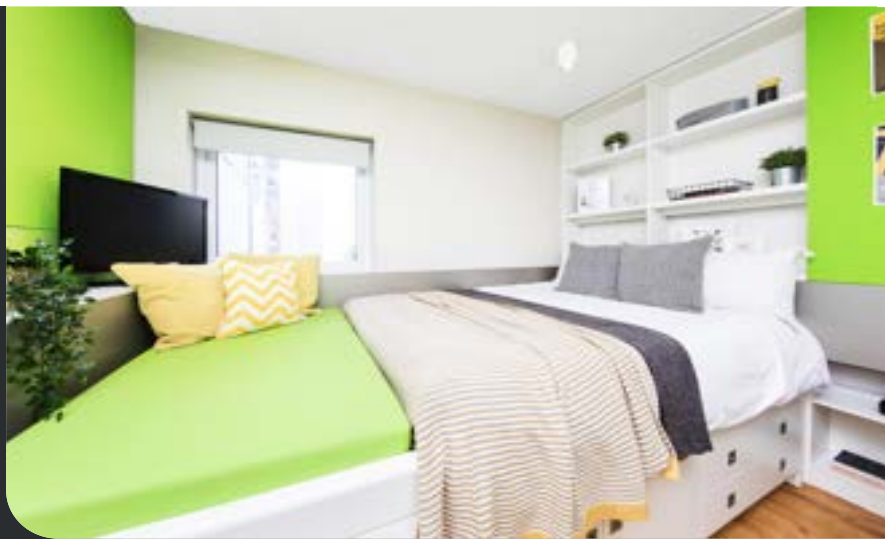
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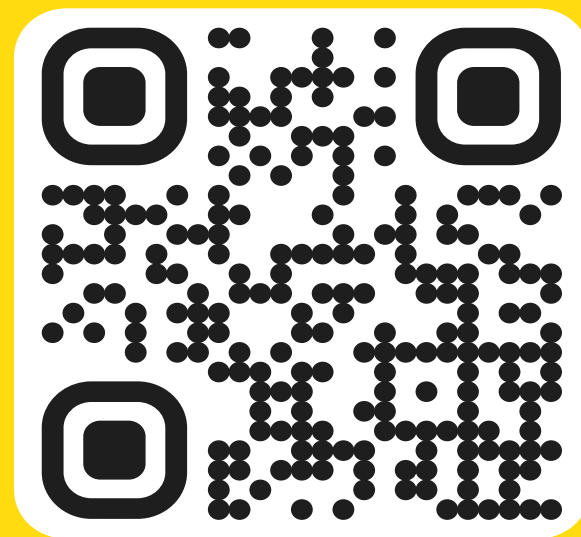


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